

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 8, 2001

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MARKEY MOURNS LOSS OF FRIEND AND POWERFUL ADVOCATE AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Representative Ed Markey (D-MA) today expressed his extreme sadness at the loss of Maureen Reagan, daughter of President Reagan, and a powerful advocate for those suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. As an Alzheimer's Association spokesperson, Ms. Reagan worked closely with Members of Congress to increase funding for Alzheimer's Research and various programs related to Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. As co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, Rep. Markey often consulted with Ms. Reagan on legislative initiatives.

Rep. Markey stated, "I am deeply saddened by the loss of Maureen Reagan. Maureen was a good friend, an extraordinary woman, a talented spokesperson and a tireless advocate for those suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. She was a leader in the fight to combat Alzheimer's and provided compelling testimony before Congress pleading her case that Alzheimer's was on the road to becoming the epidemic of the 21st Century should we fail to find a cure. Despite her declining health, Maureen refused to let up in her advocacy role and was a major force behind successful efforts to increase federal funding for Alzheimer's research, caregiver support programs and changes in the law to improve quality of life for those afflicted and affected by Alzheimer's Disease.

"With grace, warmth and wit, Maureen convinced lawmakers to pay attention to the scourge plaguing one in ten Americans over sixty-five and half of seniors over the age of 85. She took the tragedy of her own father's illness and chose to fight not only for him but for the four million Americans currently suffering with Alzheimer's. It's a difficult and selfless act to take on Alzheimer's disease in the national arena while a parent at home is deteriorating from that same illness, but Maureen knew there was no time to waste – so she took on the challenge – despite the emotional burden. Today, we lose a tremendously powerful advocate in the battle against Alzheimer's – her passion and energy are irreplaceable but provide incredible inspiration to continue the fight to end the epidemic of our time."

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